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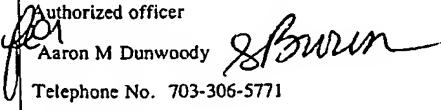
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference DMNZ20045PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US03/22025	International filing date (day/month/year) 15 July 2003 (15.07.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 15 July 2002 (15.07.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): F16L 27/00 and US Cl.: 285/276,353,384,321,89,148.28,148.4,234,273,272		
Applicant DORMONT MANUFACTURING COMPANY		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>4</u> sheets.</p> <p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 10 February 2004 (10.02.2004)	Date of completion of this report 15 November 2004 (15.11.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	<p>Authorized officer  Aaron M. Dunwoody Telephone No. 703-306-5771 </p>

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet)(July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/22025

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed. the description:pages 1-17 as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____. the claims:pages NONE, as originally filed
pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages 18-21, filed with the letter of 20 May 2004 (20.05.2004). the drawings:pages 1-15 as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____. the sequence listing part of the description:pages NONE, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in printed form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages NONE the claims, Nos. NONE the drawings, sheets/fig NONE5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US03/22025**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>3,4,11-19 and 21-23</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1,2, 5-10 and 20</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>3,4,11-19 and 21-23</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1,2, 5-10 and 20</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-23</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1, 2, 5-10 and 20 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Saylor. In regards to claims 1, 2, 5-10 and 20, in Figures 1 and 5, Saylor discloses a fluid line connector assembly including a length of flexible tubing having a tubing end and an end fitting rotatably supported on the tubing end. A sealing member being compressively positioned between the tubing end and the end fitting. A retainer extending for the tubing end and engaging the end fitting preventing the axial removal thereof from the tubing end.

Claims 3, 4, 11-19 and 21-23 the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the features as presented in the amended claims filed 20 May 2004.

— NEW CITATIONS —

*Replaced
by At. 34
Amendment*

WO 2004/008013

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We claim:

1. A fluid line connector assembly comprising:
a length of flexible tubing having a tubing end;
an end fitting rotatably supported on said tubing end;
a sealing member compressively positioned between said tubing end and said end fitting; and,
a retainer extending from said tubing end and engaging said end fitting preventing the axial removal of said end fitting from said tubing end.
2. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 1, wherein said retainer is integrally formed on said tubing end.
3. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 2, wherein said retainer includes a radially outwardly extending flared portion.
4. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 3, wherein said flared portion is substantially frustoconical.
5. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 2, wherein said end fitting includes a radially outwardly extending annular groove and said retainer extends into said annular groove.
6. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 5, wherein said retainer is a projection extending outwardly from said tubing end.

*replaced by
Art. 34 Amendment*

7. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 6, wherein said projection is an annular projection.
8. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 1, wherein said tubing end includes a radially inwardly extending annular groove, and at least a portion of said retainer is received within said annular groove of said tubing end.
9. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 8, wherein said end fitting includes a radially outwardly extending annular groove, and at least a portion of said retainer is received within said annular groove of said end fitting.
10. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 9, wherein said retainer is a removable retaining ring.
11. A fluid line connector assembly comprising:
 - a length of flexible tubing having a generally cylindrical tubing end;
 - an end fitting having an inside wall at least partially defining a passage through said end fitting, said passage adapted to receive said tubing end such that said end fitting is rotatably supported thereon;
 - a sealing member sealingly disposed between said tubing end and said end fitting; and,
 - a retainer extending radially outwardly from said tubing end beyond said inside wall of said end fitting such that said end fitting is axially retained on said tubing end.

~~Art. 34~~ replaced by Amendment

12. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 11, wherein said retainer is integrally formed on said tubing end.
13. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 12, wherein said retainer is a radially outwardly extending flared portion of said tubing end.
14. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 13, wherein said flared portion is substantially frustoconical.
15. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 12, wherein said retainer is an outwardly extending projection.
16. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 15, wherein said projection is an annular projection.
17. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 15, wherein said end fitting includes a radially outwardly extending annular groove, and said projection is received within said annular groove.
18. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 11, wherein said tubing end includes a radially inwardly extending annular groove, and said retainer is at least partially received within said annular groove of said tubing end.

*Replaced by
A.A. 34 Amendment*

19. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 18, wherein said end fitting includes a radially outwardly extending annular groove, and said retainer is at least partially received within said annular groove of said end fitting.

20. A method of assembling a fluid line connector assembly comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a length of flexible tubing having a tubing end, an end fitting having an inside wall at least partially forming a passage through said end fitting, and a sealing member;
- b) installing said sealing member on one of said tubing end and said end fitting;
- c) installing said end fitting on said tubing end such that said passage receives said tubing end and said sealing member is compressively positioned between said tubing end and said end fitting; and,
- d) forming a retainer on said tubing end to axially retain said end fitting thereon.

21. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 20, wherein said step d) includes radially outwardly displacing a portion of said tubing end to form said retainer.

22. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 21, wherein said retainer is substantially frustoconical.

23. A fluid line connector assembly according to claim 21, wherein said end fitting includes a radially outwardly extending groove, and said retainer is formed into said groove.